

principle we must expect had results as a sure sequence. In the works of Luca della Robbia we have another instance of the had effect of colour as applied to sculpture, for I think those who have seen his works will agree with me that the coloured subjects are ruined, whilst his works in marble or plain porcelain are admirable. I think that no man of taste would desire to see a repetition of the frieze on the Hospital of Pistoia except as a curiosity; and I would invoke the great names of the noblest period of art which modern times has known—Sanzullo, Sansovino, Palladio, Raffaele, Sanmichele, Peruzzi, and Michelangelo,—as powerful authorities against the introduction of such a system, which, whether practised by the Greeks or not, is revolting to the dignity, grandeur, and simplicity of a noble art, feeling, from what we know of their principles and practice, that they would energetically have opposed such a system, and never have allowed, as was asserted at these meetings, that if the ancient buildings were so treated, it should be our "pride and pleasure" to imitate, and our ambition to equal them. J. B. WARRING.

#### FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

**The Kroll Winter Garden at Berlin.**—After this splendid establishment had been consumed by fire last year, its re-opening, after complete reconstruction, took place on the 24th February. A spacious entrance, capable of accommodating two coaches, leads the visitor through a vestibule to the entrance, where the bureau and the wardrobe are situated. To the right, an elegant winding staircase of iron leads to the corridor and the boxes of the first saloon. This, called the *Roman Saloon*, has a length of 80 feet, by 36 feet of breadth, and 26 feet high. It is painted gold, white, and red, and the ceiling has *cassettes*, which surround two large fresco paintings. The walls are ornamented with groups in medallions. Large mirrors, 12 feet by 6, ornament the walls. By a colonnade, which divides the saloons, we reach the *King's Saloon*, which has a length of 100 feet, by 78 feet broad, and 40 feet high. Six chandeliers spread the light of 900 gas tapers over the space. The saloon and the surrounding boxes are painted white, gold, and green. The architecture is that of the Renaissance style: grooved out gilt pilasters and into caryatides, which support the ceiling; they are modelled by Professor Fischer. The ceiling consists of a network of gilt ornaments, containing medallion portraits of poets, painters, and architects. The third apartment is called the *Knights' Saloon*, and is of the same dimensions as the former. The ornamentation consists of paintings representing sports and mediæval gymnastics in eighteen arched niches. The other appurtenances of the new Kroll Winter Garden are of the same character, and the whole ornamented, moreover, with plants and shrubs. The very large attendance on the opening and subsequent day, proved the liking of winter gardens by the large population of the Prussian capital.

**The Gallery of Ancient Paintings in Schliessen Castle, Bavaria.**—King Maximilian of Bavaria has commissioned M. Zimmermann, central director of galleries, with the formation of this collection (*Athena Gallery*). It comprises about two hundred portraits of the rulers of the Bavarian dynasty, and begins with Otto the greater in the year 1180, who was the first Duke of Bavaria of the house of Wittelsbach. The locale chosen is a large saloon-like corridor in the upper story of the castle. Amongst the portraits are some of great value, especially by Behem, a pupil of Albrecht Dürer. Many were much impaired by age and bad usage, but have been ably restored by the conservators of the royal galleries. Besides their historical value, the portraits are faithful specimens of the costume, and the gorgeousness of those times, as the dresses of some of the princesses seem actually strewn with jewels.

**Kaulbach's Frescoes.**—The designs made after the frescoes of the New Berlin Museum, have been sold by Kaulbach to a Berlin painter.

lishing firm, for 1,000 thalers (150*l.*) The high-minded artist did not take the money, but presented it to the fund for the rebuilding of Cologne Cathedral. The king, also, has again this year allotted 50,000 thalers for that purpose, which, with some lotteries and the like aid, will adequately contribute towards somewhat upraising this hugest pile of mediæval building.

#### "THE BUILDER" ABROAD.

At a meeting of the *Société Libre des Beaux Arts*, Paris, Feb. 3, M. Moulart made a report upon a series of numbers of the *BUILDER*. The *Revue des Beaux Arts* says:—"This very interesting report, which contained a description of several remarkable monuments, was sent to the publishing committee, who, after examination, decided that an analysis of it should be published in the *Revue des Beaux Arts*. M. Moulart was congratulated on his work."—The last number of the *Journal de l'Architecture et des Arts relatifs de la Construction*, published in Belgium,† contains the first part of a translation of the articles "On the Dome in Modern Architecture," by Mr. Huggins, which appeared in our journal some time ago. Amongst the illustrations is an engraving, also from our pages, of the Street Elevation in Manchester (Messrs. Starkey and Co. architects), which we published some time since. The *Journal de l'Architecture* is exceedingly well conducted. The number to which we have referred contains an elaborate article on the ancient Roman Roads traversing Belgium, by M. Van der Rit, architect, with many illustrations, and a map of Belgium, showing the course of all the roads.

#### THE HOLMFIRTH CATASTROPHE.

THE verdict of the jury on the cause of the death of one of the multitude of sufferers by the bursting of the Bilberry reservoir, at Holmfirth, is as follows:—

"We find that Eliza Maredon came to her death by drowning, caused by the bursting of the Bilberry reservoir. We also find that the Bilberry reservoir was defective in its original construction, and that the commissioners, engineers, and overlookers were grossly culpable in not seeing to the proper regulation of the works; that the commissioners, in permitting the Bilberry reservoir to remain for several years in a dangerous state with a full knowledge thereof, and not lowering the waste-pit, have been guilty of wilful and culpable negligence, and we regret that the reservoir being under the management of a corporation prevents us from bringing in a verdict of manslaughter, as we are convinced that the gross and culpable negligence of the commissioners would have subjected them to such a verdict had they been in the position of a private individual or a firm. We also hope that the Legislature will take into its most serious consideration the propriety of making provision for the protection of the lives and properties of her Majesty's subjects exposed to danger from reservoirs placed by corporations in situations similar to those under the charge of the Holme Reservoir Commissioners."

It appears from the evidence of a Mr. Leather, that "if a hole of 18 feet had been made in the waste-pit above the shuttle, the accident would, in all probability, have been prevented. He himself would have lowered the waste-pit below the level of the embankment. This could have been done at a trifling expense; in fact, would only have cost about 12*l.* 10*s.*"

Mr. Littlewood, an architect and a commissioner, stated that so far back as 1846 he had pointed out the danger, and that an order was given to form this very opening; that he had employed Messrs. Thorpe and Co. stonemasons, to do the work, but that some of the commissioners threatened, if he proceeded, to resist the attempt by force!

A fatality far worse than even that at Holmfirth is dreaded, it appears, at Sheerness, which lies 8 feet to 10 feet below high-water mark at

spring tides, while the beach wall and the stonework of the dockyard are not even a single foot higher than the usual reach of these tides, which only require the aid of a strong north-east wind to enable them to inundate the whole town and its vicinity. The walls, moreover, are said to be not sufficient in strength, even as they are.

#### SWANSEA FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THIS academy is now to be erected at Mount Pleasant, from the designs of Mr. Thomas Taylor, architect; Mr. Rayner, builder. The style is Tudor, and the arrangement consists of a school-room, 79 feet in length, by 27 feet in breadth, with open timber roof; two classrooms, each 27 feet by 16 feet; hat and cloak room, a large dining-hall, library, under-master's sitting-room, and residence for the head master, with accommodation for sixty boarders; all being approached by an entrance-hall, and united by a grained corridor, 100 feet in length (a separate approach and entrance being provided for the master's house). The entrance-hall forms the base of a tower, terminating in an octagon, 60 feet high. The principal front faces the south-west, and is 200 feet long, with a terrace 20 feet broad, extending the entire length of the building, and finished by a bank, sloping towards an extensive play-ground. The walls are to be built with the native stone, with Bath stone dressings.

This institution was founded, says the "Swansea Guide," "by the Right Rev. Hugh Gore, Lord Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, in Ireland, who endowed it with 650 acres of land, in the county of Glamorgan, by deed bearing date the 19th September, 1682, for the free education, in virtue and good literature, of sons of the poorer sort of burgesses of Swansea."

#### TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION—SAINT GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

IN these days when every effort is made to improve social facilities of all kinds, and to complete and perfect every arrangement that can conduce to health or convenience, it may not be inappropriate to call attention to a system of telegraph communication just adopted at St. George's Hospital. Dr. Pitman, the zealous physician attached to the hospital, desirous of getting rid of the annoyance occasioned to the patients by the noisy transmission of orders through the different wards (thus the hall-porter was accustomed to ring a large bell in the hall until it drew all the nurses into the corridors, and then he shouted out the orders he had to give them), requested the assistance of Mr. John Braithwaite, the engineer, who visited the hospital and suggested the manner in which it should be done.

In the hall is a column three feet high, having in its top a dial on which are engraved a number of signals:—on the walls of the different wards are corresponding dials similarly engraved, but much larger; and when the pointer to the dial in the hall is moved to any signal, all the others move in precisely the same way—and at the same time a little hammer falls on a small bell, and draws attention to the fact that the pointer has moved. In this way about fifty signals are transmitted daily in each ward without the possibility of error or the least noise. The cost in the first instance we are told was very trifling, and that of maintenance is really nothing. The same arrangement might be made useful in dwelling-houses for ordinary domestic use. Messrs. Thompson and Grafton executed the work.

#### METROPOLITAN SEWER COMMISSION.

It is understood that the present commissioners will not appoint a new engineer, considering that the five surveyors who superintend the five districts, into which the property within the jurisdiction of the commission is divided, are equal to all that may be required of them. The fact is, they will not be able to do anything: they are about 56,000*l.* in debt, without the means of clearing themselves, so that the execution of any works of consequence is quite out of the question.

\* For Feb. 15. Rue de Cléry, No. 79.

† Livraison 4 of the 4th year. Office, No. 25, Montagne-aux-Herbes-Folles, Brussels.